



BIDEN'S WAR ON SUBURBS

- Democrats often advocate for sweeping government overhauls to housing, education, border security, and other matters that they would not personally choose to impose on their own families.
- President Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure proposal would authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to establish a program to award grants and tax credits to local governments that eliminate exclusionary zoning laws, which limit areas to certain types of land uses such as single-family homes.¹
- Under the proposal, local governments are enticed by HUD to allow apartment buildings in neighborhoods which are currently restricted to single-family homes.
- The Fair Housing Act protects an individual's right to buy and rent housing where they please, regardless of race or ethnicity.² Passing President Biden's proposed reform acts in contrast to the law by allowing Washington bureaucrats to dictate where and how people live.
- Affluent communities with the tightest zoning laws have little need for federal assistance and are, therefore, unlikely to participate in such government social engineering initiatives, undermining the stated goal of such programs.³ President Biden, for example, reportedly lives in an exclusive, four-acre lakefront home where there is "no public housing, affordable housing, or rentals that accept housing vouchers."⁴
- This proposal follows Biden's 2020 campaign pledge to reinstate an Obama-era rule called Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). Under AFFH, Washington bureaucrats could override local single-family zoning regulations across the U.S., forcing suburbs to allow apartment buildings and other large developments.^{5,6}
- It is critical that American families of every race, creed, and background maintain the option to live wherever they choose. This is even more apparent as families flee America's Democrat-run cities that have descended into repeated riots, violence,⁷ lawlessness,⁸ and chronic homelessness.⁹

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¹ FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan | The White House, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/>

² 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601-19 (1968).

³ Reuters, "Biden seeks to ease housing shortage with \$5 billion 'carrot, no stick' approach," <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-biden-infrastructure-zoning/biden-seeks-to-ease-housing-shortage-with-5-billion-carrot-no-stick-approach-idUSKBN2BV1CX>

⁴ Washington Examiner, “Biden administration squeezing suburbs out of existence with zoning laws,” <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/biden-squeezing-suburbs-existence-zoning-laws>

⁵ Federal Register, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, 24 CFR, July 16, 2015.

⁶ National Review, “Massive Government Overreach: Obama’s AFFH Rule is Out,” July 8, 2015, <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/massive-government-overreach-obamas-affh-rule-out-stanley-kurtz/>

⁷ CBS News, “New York City sees 166% increase in shootings last month compared to August last year,” Sept. 3, 2020, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-york-city-shootings-august-increase-166-percent/>.

⁸ Daily Caller, “Portland DA Says Protesters Won’t Be Charged With Harassment, Rioting Under New Policy,” Aug. 12, 2020, <https://dailycaller.com/2020/08/12/portland-protesters-mike-schmidt-no-charges-policy/>

⁹ “How California Homelessness Became A Crisis : Planet Money : NPR,” <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2021/06/08/1003982733/squalor-behind-the-golden-gate-confronting-californias-homelessness-crisis>